



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAI
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Oifig na Seirbhísí Sláinte Meabhrach | Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh & Ciarraí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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19th October 2021

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin

PQ ref 47832/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the alternative long-stay and respite placements available in Cork city and county to residents of the Owenacurra Centre if its proposed closure goes ahead; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

With regards to respite care, any patient over the age of 65 would have access to respite care (a number of weeks per year) in private nursing homes or community hospitals. As is with the general population, access to this would be organised through the PHN.

Since August 2021, there is now a full Psychiatry of Later Life service to all of North Lee catchment area including Cobh/Glenville Sector and Midleton/Youghal Sectors. This multidisciplinary team provide a home based service and also provide in-reach to Nursing homes and Community Hospitals. In the event an older person avails of respite in a nursing home, the POLL Team can visit them during their respite stay to ensure that there is no disruption to their care plan.

Individuals from Cork may be referred to all of the Community Residences i.e.;

Continuing Care

St Catherine Ward, St Finbarr’s Hospital,
St Stephens Hospital, Glanmire
including

High Support Hostels

Cois Alla, Kanturk
Solus Nua, Mallow
Carraigabrick, Fermoy
St Coleman’s House, Macroom.
Garnish House, Western Road, Cork
Gougane Barra House, Western Rd, Cork
Glenmalure House, Blackrock Road
Saol Nua, Skibbereen



In the High Support Hostels, there is an option of utilising one of the places to facilitate brief respite on an assessed needs basis in order to provide an alternative to acute hospital admission and also to facilitate an earlier discharge from an acute approved centre. As individuals in congregated setting were identified as being of higher risk of contracting Covid-19 and separately individuals with severe and enduring mental illness have a higher risk of adverse outcome should they contract Covid-19, all such brief respite admissions stopped in order to protect these vulnerable residences during Covid-19.

A further Rehabilitation Consultant Psychiatrist has been approved for Cork Mental Health Services and this consultant is expected to commence duty in Jan 2022. This Rehabilitation team will support individuals with severe and enduring mental illness in the community. This Rehabilitation Team will have clinical governance of all community residences in North & South Lee and with a recovery focus work with each individual to assist them have as independent a life as possible with a focus on achieving a high level of quality of life

With regards to Midleton/Youghal and Cobh/Glenville sectors the following is a list of mental health services available in these catchment areas:

Cobh/Glenville Sector:

- East Cork Home Based Treatment Team which covers both Cobh/Glenville and Midleton/Youghal sectors which offers a prompt multidisciplinary and assessment and intervention service in the community for individuals presenting in crisis.
- Sli Nua Day resource consisting of 1 CNM2 and 2 staff nurses. They provide support and facilitate various therapeutic groups on a one to one basis and on a group basis also (recommencing 22/10/2021 in keeping with Covid-19 guidelines)
- Community Mental Health Team consisting of Consultant Psychiatrist, NCHD, Psychology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy and two Community Mental Health Nurses
- OPD clinic on a Tuesday and Monday morning
- Sessional input from Clinical Nurse Specialists in Psychotherapy and Weight management
- Rapid access clinic weekly which provides a rapid community review for individuals who have presented in crisis in the previous week and who may have presented to the Emergency Department.
- Weekend Nursing Service to allow follow up for individuals on a 7 day basis (including bank holidays)
- Early Intervention in Psychosis Service.
- Psychiatry of Later Life Service.
- Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) provides assertive outreach to individuals from all Cork.

Midleton/Youghal Sector:

- East Cork Home Based Treatment Team which covers both Cobh/Glenville and Midleton/Youghal sectors which offers a prompt multidisciplinary and assessment and intervention service in the community for individuals presenting in crisis.
- Owenacurra Day Hospital consisting of 1 CNM2 and 2 staff nurses. They provide support and facilitate various therapeutic groups on a one to one basis and from 22/10/2021 on a group basis also
- Community Mental Health Team consisting of Consultant Psychiatrist, NCHD, Psychology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy and two Community Mental Health Nurses
- New patient OPD clinic on alternative Tuesdays with full day clinic every Thursday.
- OPD clinic in Youghal every 2nd Tuesday

- Sessional input from Clinical Nurse Specialists in Psychotherapy and Weight management and CNS Family Therapy.
- Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN)
- Access to space in Cuman na Daoine in Youghal to facilitate one to one work

- Psychiatry of Later Life Service.
- Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) provides assertive outreach to individuals from all Cork.
- Access to space in Cuman na Daoine in Youghal to facilitate one to one work

Cork Mental Health Service is currently recruiting an Eating Disorder Team (Adult) for Cork and Kerry Mental Health Services in addition to recruiting a Forensic Consultant Psychiatrist and a Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist which will further enhance the community mental health services in Cork East Cork.

With regards to the planned closure of the Owenacurra Centre, our priority is to make sure that we identify the most suitable placement for every resident based on their assessed needs, will and preferences. As acknowledged in communications to date, the process of finding the most appropriate alternative placements for all residents of the Owenacurra Centre will continue for several more months, so as to achieve our aim of finding the most appropriate placements possible and minimise disruption for residents.

I trust you find the above clarifies the query raised.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Morrison,
A/Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare